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The Geology of North Central Wisconsin. By Samuel Weidman. xxxi and 697 pp., 80 maps, diagrams, and half-tone Illustrations and Index. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Madison, 1907.

The author is the geologist of the State Survey. His report is of value not only to geologists and to the commercial and economic interests of the State, but also to the general reader and the high school and university student. Dr. Weidman says in his preface that one of the principal objects of the Survey reports is the educational value to the citizens and schools of the State. This purpose is admirably fulfilled in the present volume, and it is a good example of the present tendency to write such reports in a way to enlighten and educate the reader and to supply material for the use of competent teachers in the class room.

The report describes the principal geological features of a large area in North Central Wisconsin where the problems are mainly those relating to the earliest rocks, the Pre-Cambrian, and to the very latest rocks, the Pleistocene or glacial. There is a great gap between these widely separated formations and it is represented by the records of a vast amount of erosion extending through a very long period of geological time. Summing up the investigation, Dr. Weidman says that the Pre-Cambrian formations consist, to a relatively small extent, of metamorphosed sedimentaries and to a very large extent of igneous intrusives. The problems of the igneous rocks are sketched only in outline, and there are questions concerning them and their mineral contents that require further study, but some new minerals have been discovered and some new associations of minerals are described.

The glacial deposits of this area supply the records of four different ice invasions. A distinct and fascinating part of the report is the account of the development of the topographic features, the plains, hills and valleys that diversify the area, and the agencies by which these surface reliefs have been moulded into their present condition. This physiographical chapter is a treatment of the geography of North Central Wisconsin from the viewpoint of its origin, and it should be of great usefulness to teachers of physical geography in the schools.

The volume should be of special interest to all intelligent citizens living in the part of the State which it describes. The text and maps enable them to find the exact locations of the geological formations and the topographical features described. They will learn much by studying their immediate surrounding with this report as a guide.

Researches in Assyrian and Babylonian Geography. Part 1. By Olaf A. Toffteen. 59 pp., 2 Maps, Geographical List to R. F. Harper's Assyrian and Babylonian Letters (Vols. I–III.) and List of Abbreviations and Books Quoted. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1908. (Price, $1 net.)

These researches include the lands of Isua, Daria, and Bît-za-Mâni. The author, who is Professor of Semitic Languages and Old Testament Literature, in the Western Theological Seminary, Chicago, gives the names of various regions and places mentioned in Assyrian and Babylonian letters and inscriptions. He collates the various allusions to the same place, and from these references, one or more in number he draws his conclusions as to the approximate or exact geographical location of the place or region named. In many cases the evidence is slight, and Dr. Toffteen makes only tentative geographical deductions, or none at all. The following quotation, relating to the City of Damdamusa, will give a clear idea of the method used:

> In the revolt of Ilâni, governor of Zamâni, Asurnasirpal III, reached the city of Damdamusa from Parzanistun and from Damdamusa he went to Amedi. Damdamusa was, consequently, situated

north of Amedi. It may also be inferred that it lay near by or on the Tigris on its western bank, because this is the first city of Zamâni that Hulai, who evidently marched through Subria, reached and captured. In Damdamusa, Asurnasirpal built granaries for storing the grain of Subria, and this would imply that the city would be near the Tigris, over which the people of Subria had to transport their tax-corn. Had it been inland, the Subrians would have found it more convenient to ship their grain to Tusha, which lay south of them on the southern bank of the Tigris.

A Biological Investigation of the Athabaska-Mackenzie Region, North-American Fauna, No. 27, by E. A. Preble, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., 1908. pp. 1+575; figs. 16; plates 25.

A very notable piece of exploratory work has been embodied in this excellent report on the geography and biology of that immense section of the continent known as the Athabaska-Mackenzie region. The region does not offer such varied problems for research as are to be found in regions of greater relief, but gains in interest by reason of its transitional qualities due to its position well toward the margin of the habitable lands. Within its borders live the last wild herds of that all but extinct species, the American bison; while the musk-ox, equally interesting, lives on the Barren Grounds where, unless protective measures are invoked, it is doomed to extinction in the near future. Representatives, and in some cases the bulk of the individuals, of most of the migratory game birds breed within its borders in millions. These, wintering in the United States, are of great economic importance. The report before us gives a detailed account of the various species of plants and animals, their adaptations and variations, their geographic distribution and their economic relations. Such reports are available in more or less complete form for other sections of the continent, including Labrador, Hudson Bay, Alaska, etc., but the Mackenzie region remained the most neglected large area in North America.

An important part of the report relates to climate and physiography. Temperature summaries are expressed in tabular fashion; likewise the dates of seasonal events at various stations. Such events include the first thaw, and the appearance of the first migratory birds from the south in the spring, and that of the migratory northern animals like the Barren Ground caribou from the north in the autumn. Some instructive climatic generalizations appear concerning topics of wide interest. The Peace River valley, of importance on account of its wheat-growing possibilities, exhibits the peculiarity of having an upper trans-mountain section protected from the northerly and easterly cold winds, with a mild winter climate; and a low plains section with almost Arctic conditions in winter. The middle section, just east of the Rockies, suffers violent extremes of temperature from the dominance now of one, now of the other set of conditions. The soil of this middle section is favorable, and combines, with the powerful though irregular chinook winds, to make the section one of considerable agricultural promise.

The geographer finds much gratification in the precision here given to such rather vague generalizations as to the extent of the Barren Grounds and the location of the tree-line. The Barren Grounds have been well described in earlier reports, but not well mapped. Their greater part is every season covered with short grasses, mosses and small flowering plants. On the peaty and sedgy portions and along the smaller rivers and lake banks grow Labrador tea, crow-berries, dwarf-birch, willows, etc. Some spots are practically sterile, others are abloom in spring with masses of bright flowers. From the mouth of Churchill River, Hudson Bay, the northern boundary of the great transcontinental spruce forest follows the shore closely for a few miles, then curves gently inland. Thence it extends northwesterly, crossing Island Lake, Ennadai Lake on Kazan River, and Boyd Lake on the Dubawnt. The next dividing point